



Defense POW/Missing Personnel Office

Operations Directorate — Fact Sheet

Department of Defense and Department of State Cooperation on Personnel Recovery

ISSUE: Interagency cooperation on personnel recovery

BACKGROUND: As stated in the definition, personnel recovery is not simply combat search and rescue, or military recovery of isolated personnel. More and more, especially with the increased incidence of Small Scale Contingencies (SSC) and Military Operations Other Than War (MOOTW), the only course of action available to resolving a personnel recovery incident could be a diplomatic solution (e.g., CWO Bobby Hall shoot down in North Korea). Additionally, combatant commanders are using Search and Rescue (SAR) agreements as a means of engaging other nations. These developments are increasing the need for coordination between the Departments of Defense and State.

DISCUSSION: After much coordination and insistence on the need for the Department of State to identify an entry point for DoD coordination on personnel recovery issues with State, the Executive Secretariat designated the Deputy Director of the Office of International Security Operations, Political-Military Bureau Department of State, as our primary point of contact. He represented the Department of State at the DoD Personnel Recovery Conference, and is a member of the Personnel Recovery Advisory Group.

Mr. Mel Richmond and LCDR Bill Doan are working with Mr. Adams to draft a DoD/DoS Memorandum of Agreement on Mutual Support for Personnel Recovery, similar the MOA between DoD and the CIA. A mutually agreeable draft is in final coordination between DoD and State. When this is complete we will submit the MOA for formal coordination.

Since their designation as our entry point into DoS, Mr. Adams has sent representatives to attend all Personnel Recovery Response Cell meetings and exercises. He appears fully engaged in this project.